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the SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN
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MAY
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PURSUIT
IS OVER--NOW IT'S TIME FOR...
VENGEANCE!
DIRECT EDITION
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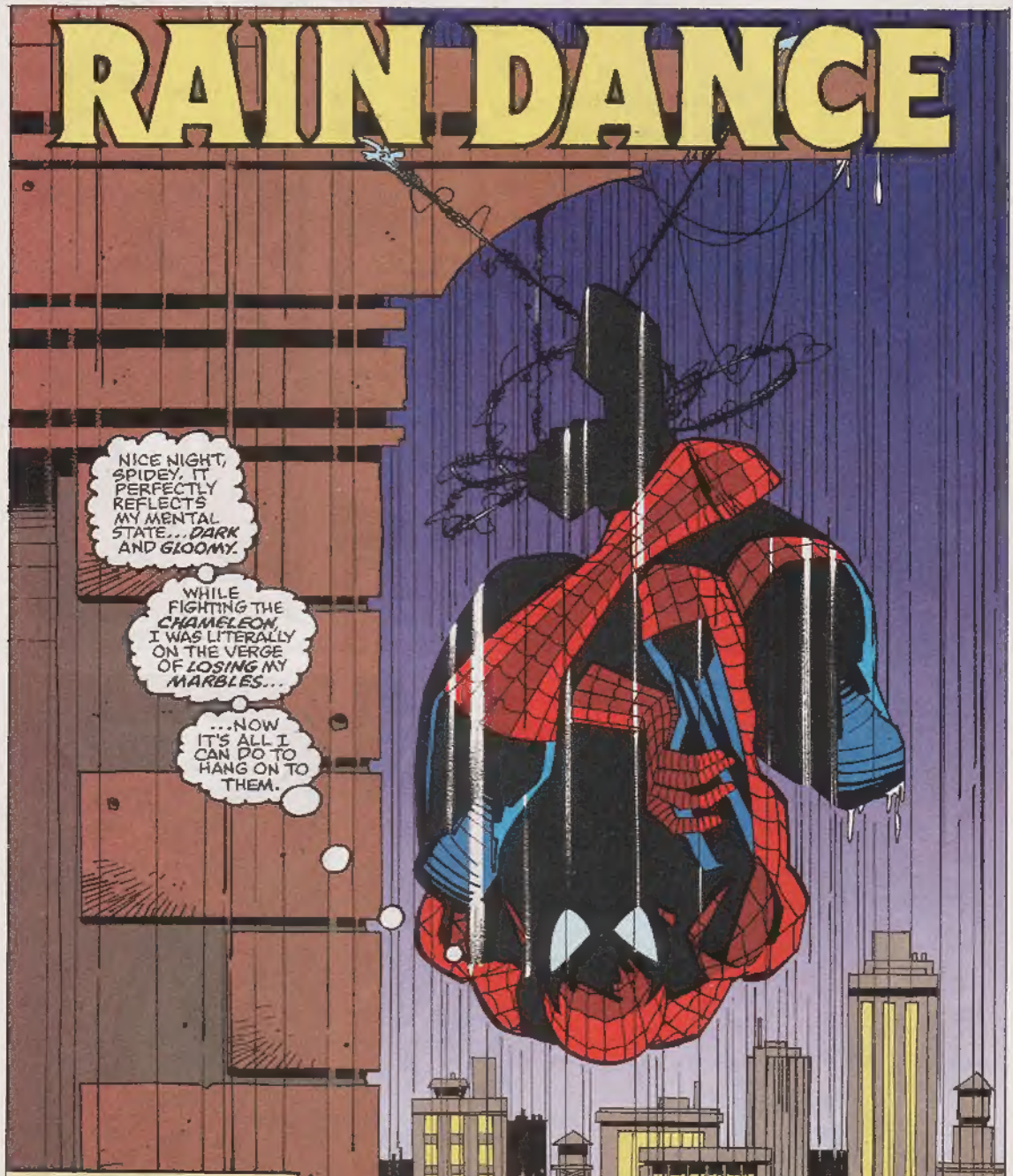
BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT PETER PARKER GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

STAN LEE PRESENTS: **THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN**

RAIN DANCE


NICE NIGHT, SPIDEY. IT PERFECTLY REFLECTS MY MENTAL STATE... DARK AND GLOOMY.
WHILE FIGHTING THE CHAMELEON, I WAS LITERALLY ON THE VERGE OF LOSING MY MARBLES...
...NOW IT'S ALL I CAN DO TO HANG ON TO THEM.

A TALE OF VIOLENCE, VIRTUE AND VENGEANCE BY:

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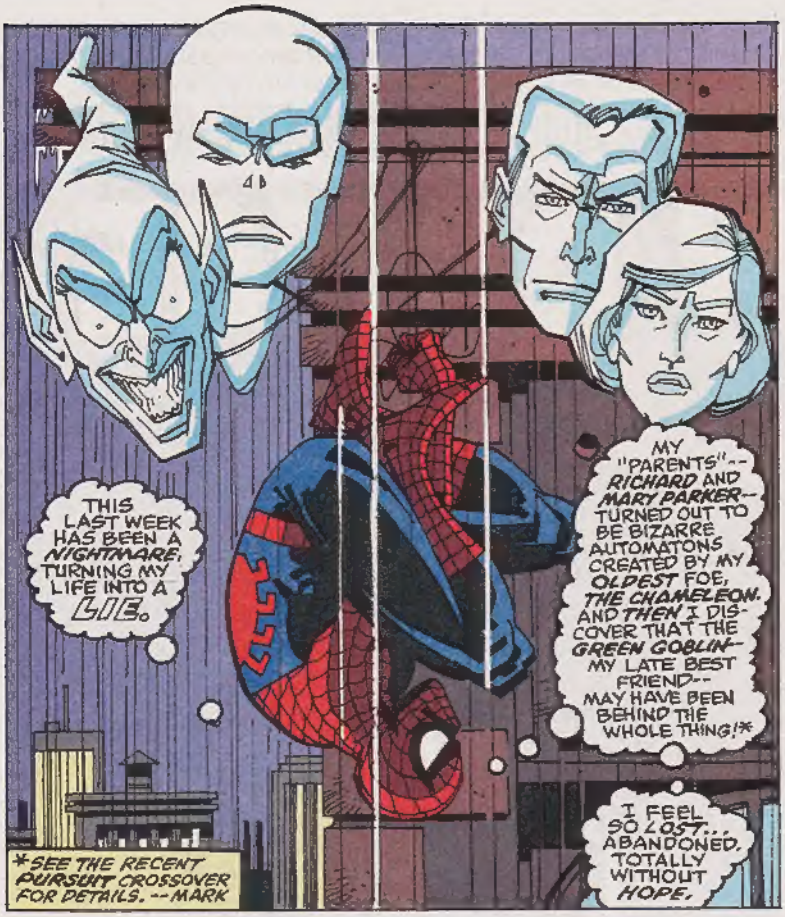
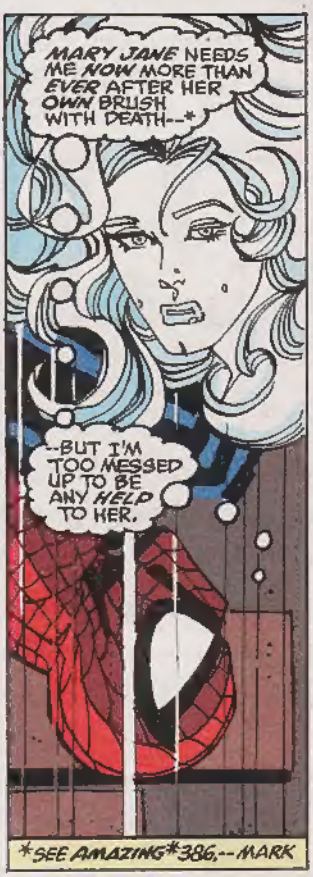
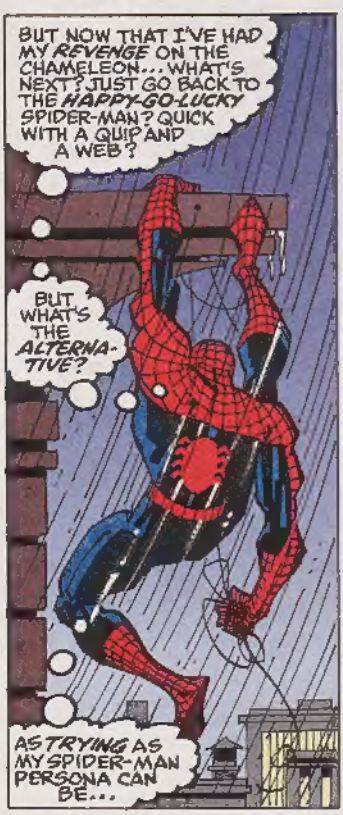
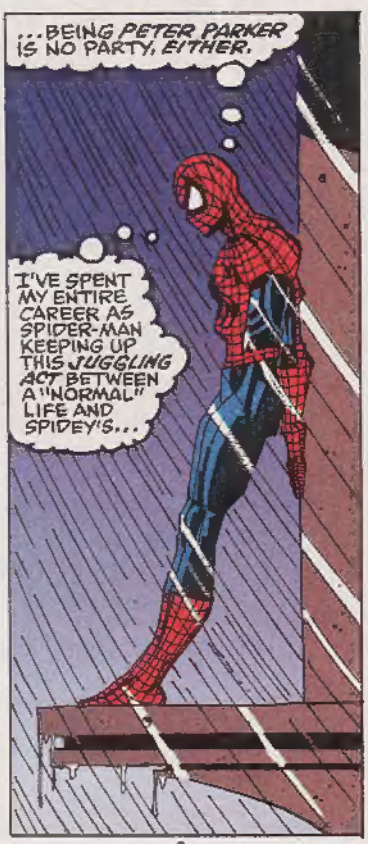

THIS LAST WEEK HAS BEEN A NIGHTMARE, TURNING MY LIFE INTO A LIE.
MY "PARENTS"--RICHARD AND MARY PARKER--TURNED OUT TO BE BIZARRE AUTOMATONS CREATED BY MY OLDEST FOE, THE CHAMELEON. AND THEN I DISCOVER THAT THE GREEN GOBLIN--MY LATE BEST FRIEND--MAY HAVE BEEN BEHIND THE WHOLE THING!*
I FEEL SO LOST... ABANDONED. TOTALLY WITHOUT HOPE.
*SEE THE RECENT PURSUIT CROSSOVER FOR DETAILS. --MARK


MARY JANE NEEDS ME NOW MORE THAN EVER AFTER HER OWN BRUSH WITH DEATH--*
--BUT I'M TOO MESSED UP TO BE ANY HELP TO HER.
*SEE AMAZING*386.--MARK


BUT NOW THAT I'VE HAD MY REVENGE ON THE CHAMELEON... WHAT'S NEXT? JUST GO BACK TO THE HAPPY-GO-LUCKY SPIDER-MAN? QUICK WITH A QUIP AND A WEB?
BUT WHAT'S THE ALTERNATIVE?
AS TRYING AS MY SPIDER-MAN PERSONA CAN BE...

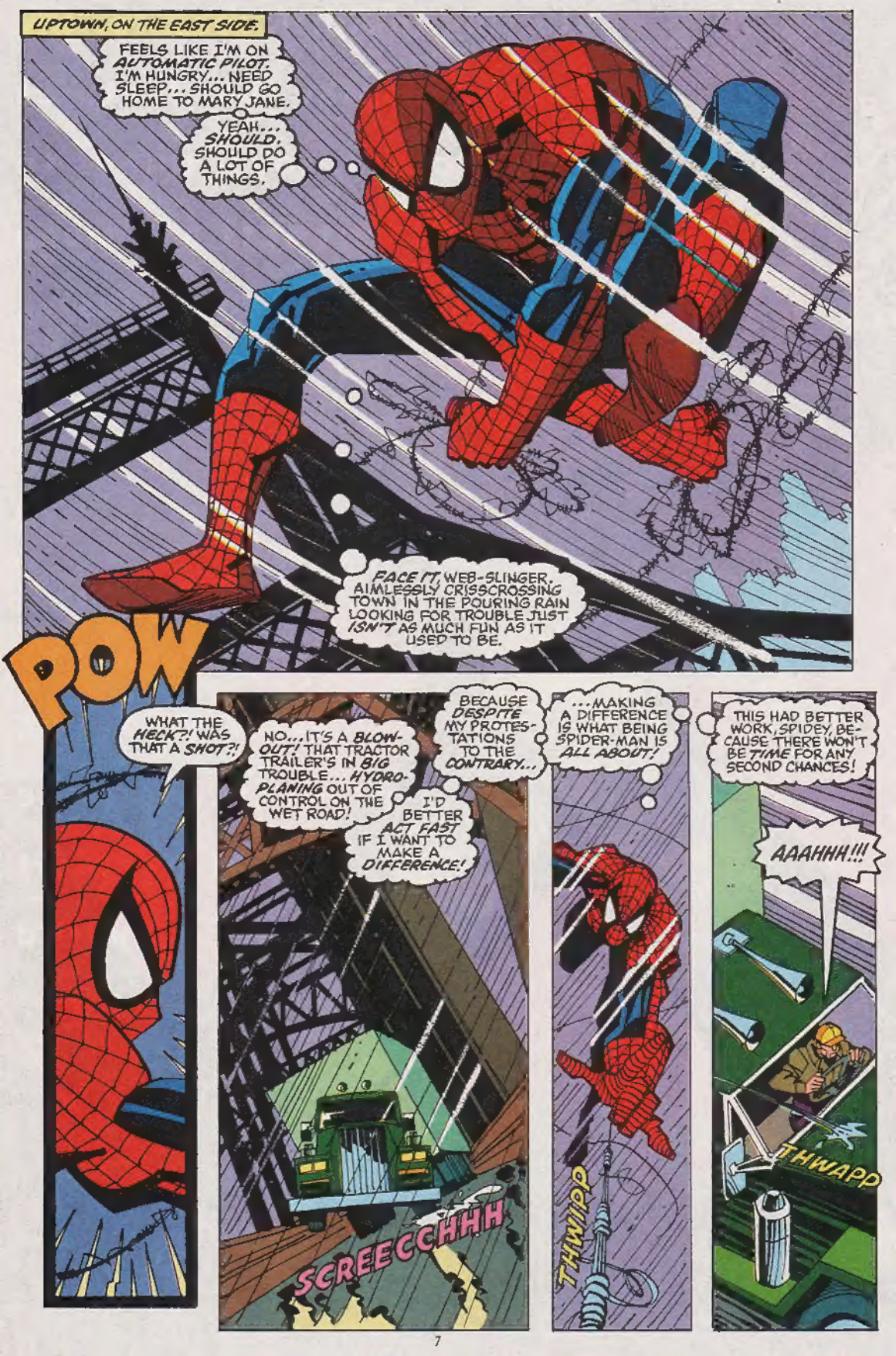

...BEING PETER PARKER IS NO PARTY, EITHER.
I'VE SPENT MY ENTIRE CAREER AS SPIDER-MAN KEEPING UP THIS JUGGLING ACT BETWEEN A "NORMAL" LIFE AND SPIDEY'S...

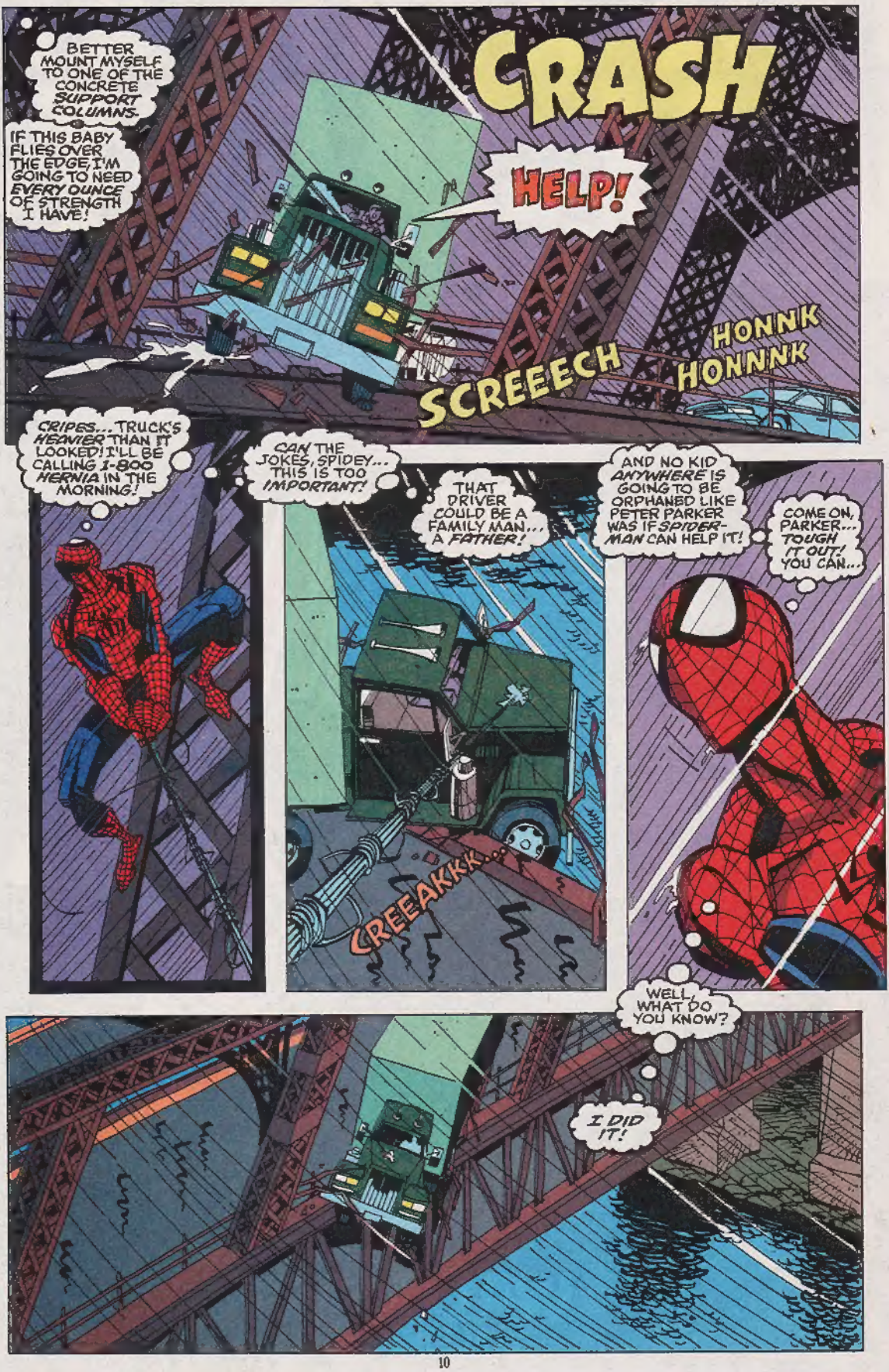
...NOW THE PLATES ARE ALL CRASHING DOWN AROUND ME.

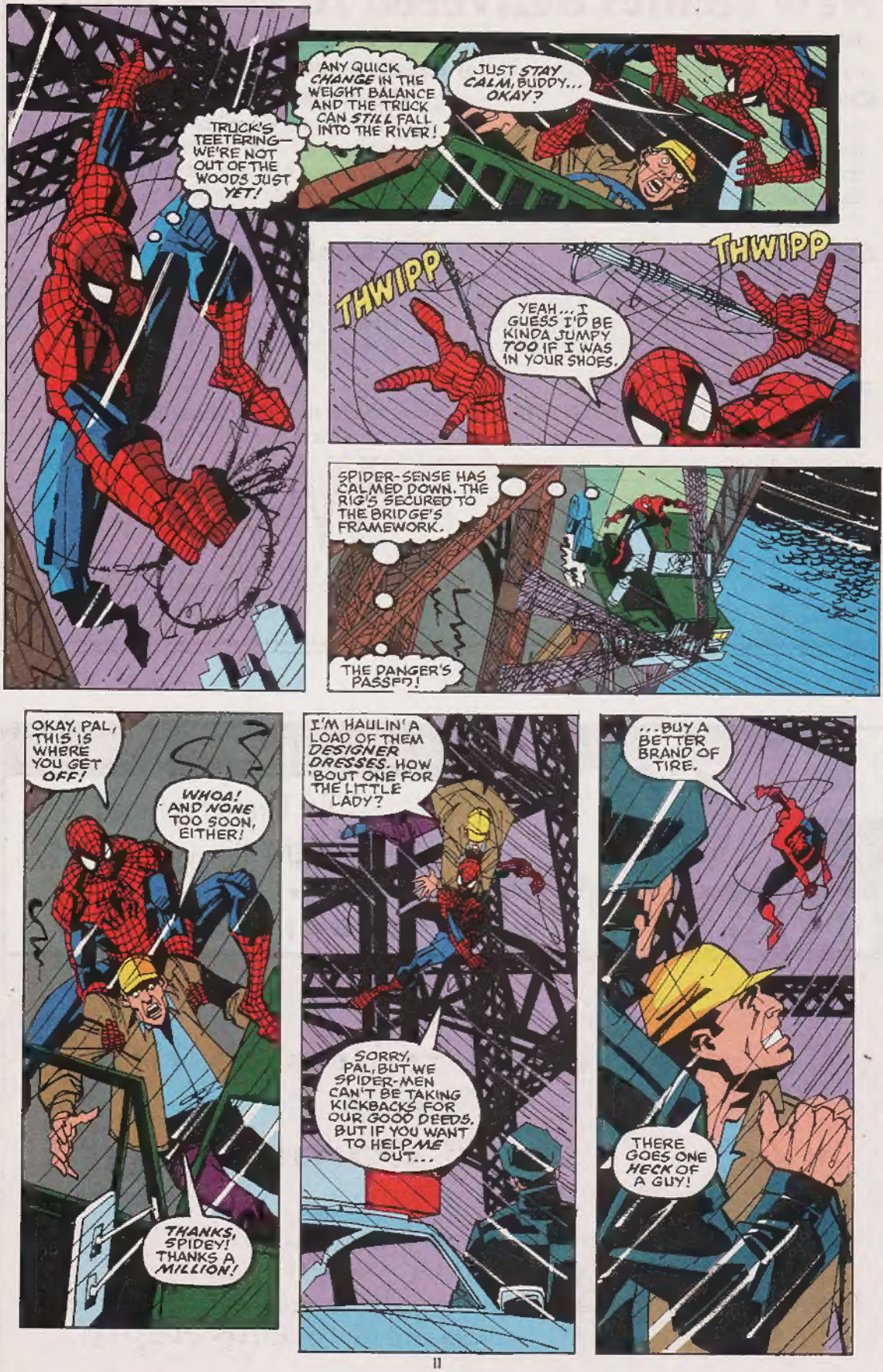
RYAN MENTAL HOSPITAL, THE LAST STOP FOR THE WORST OF THE WORST...
RYAN MENTAL HOSPITAL
THREE OF THESE BABIES...
...EVERY FOUR HOURS...
...AND HE'S SWEET AS A LAMB, BOYS!
SO THIS GUY FARON IS YOUR STAR PATIENT, HUH, DOC?
CORRECT, MR. BROWNING. YOU AND MR. FAGAN SHOULD KNOW BY NOW FARON'S UNIQUE CRIMINAL HISTORY.
YEAH... WE SHOULD, BUT THEY DON'T TELL US NOTHIN'.
:SIGH:.. FARON WAS ONCE A CHEMIST WHO WAS SENT TO JAIL FOR CREATING DESIGNER DRUGS.
AFTER HIS RELEASE, FARON CREATED A SUPER-SOLUTION THAT INCREASED HIS STRENGTH EXPONENTIALLY...
...AND HE BUILT A COSTUME WHICH COULD PULL ELECTRICAL IONS FROM THE AIR, FOCUS THEM AND CREATE FORCE BLASTS.
HE BATTLED SPIDER-MAN AND THE PUNISHER, CALLING HIMSELF THE MASTER OF VENGEANCE, BUT GOT THE SHORT END OF THE STICK, WINDING UP HERE.
BLIPP
GEEZ! HE'S HUNG HIMSELF!
NO! YOU FOOLS! IT COULD BE A TRAP!

"COULD?"
HAH! YOU'D THINK RAVENCROFT WOULD ACTUALLY SPRING FOR A PAIR OF EX-PERIENCED GUARDS FOR THE MASTER OF VENGEANCE, INSTEAD OF A COUPLE OF GREENHORNS!
KKRAKK
URRK!
HOW IDIOTIC THAT THE STATE FORCES YOU TO "RESCUE" SUICIDES IN ITS INSTITUTIONS!
ISN'T THE REASON WE'RE LOCKED UP IS THAT YOU WANT US OUT OF THE WAY?
YOU'LL BE OUTTA THE WAY, ALL RIGHT!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DEALING WITH, DR. BEDPAN?
THIS IS NO DOPED UP MENTAL PATIENT, HERE!
I FAKED TAKING MY MEDICATION FOR THE LAST WEEK! IT TOOK A WHILE TO CLEANSE MY SYSTEM OF YOUR DRUGS, BUT NOW I'M READY TO ROCK N' ROLL!
NO... HAAUUWGH!!
THWUPP!
SOUND THE ALARM!!
TRYIN' TO ESCAPE, HUH, DOC?
JUST WHAT I WAS THINKING.

PLEASE... LEAVE ME ALONE! I NEVER DID ANYTHING TO YOU!
NO? THEN I GUESS DOPING ME INTO OBLIVION, LOCKING ME UP LIKE AN ANIMAL AND LISTENIN' TO YOU BRAG ABOUT BREAKIN' ME DON'T COUNT!
OH, NO! DOOR'S LOCKED! I'M TRAPPED!
NO ITTANCE
NOT TO MENTION YOUR MOST GRIEVOUS SIN, ATTEMPTING TO QUELL MY THIRST FOR VENGEANCE WITH YOUR PSEUDO-FREUDIAN NONSENSE.
DON'T HURT ME, DWIGHT! PLEASE!
SO IT'S "DWIGHT" NOW? A STEP UP FROM WHAT YOU HAD BEEN CALLING ME. I'M SURE THE NURSES THOUGHT YOU WERE VERY CLEVER.
COME ON, DWIGHT. I WAS JUST DOING MY JOB...
THE KEY CARD.
HUH? OH... SURE! WHATEVER... JUST DON'T KILL ME! HERE, LOOK...
...THIS IS MY FAMILY. WIFE... KIDS! THEY NEED ME... DEPEND ON ME!
BAD MOVE, DOC. I WAS GONNA LET YOU LIVE UNTIL YOU PULLED THIS CRUD ON ME.
SOME SHRINK YOU ARE. DONCHA REMEMBER MY CASE HISTORY? HOW I LOST MY FAMILY BECAUSE OF SPIDER-MAN...
...RESULTING IN MY TOTAL DISGUST FOR THE NUCLEAR FAMILY?
PLEASE... DON'T WANNA DIE...!
DON'T WORRY, TARANTINO. I'LL MAKE IT QUICK.

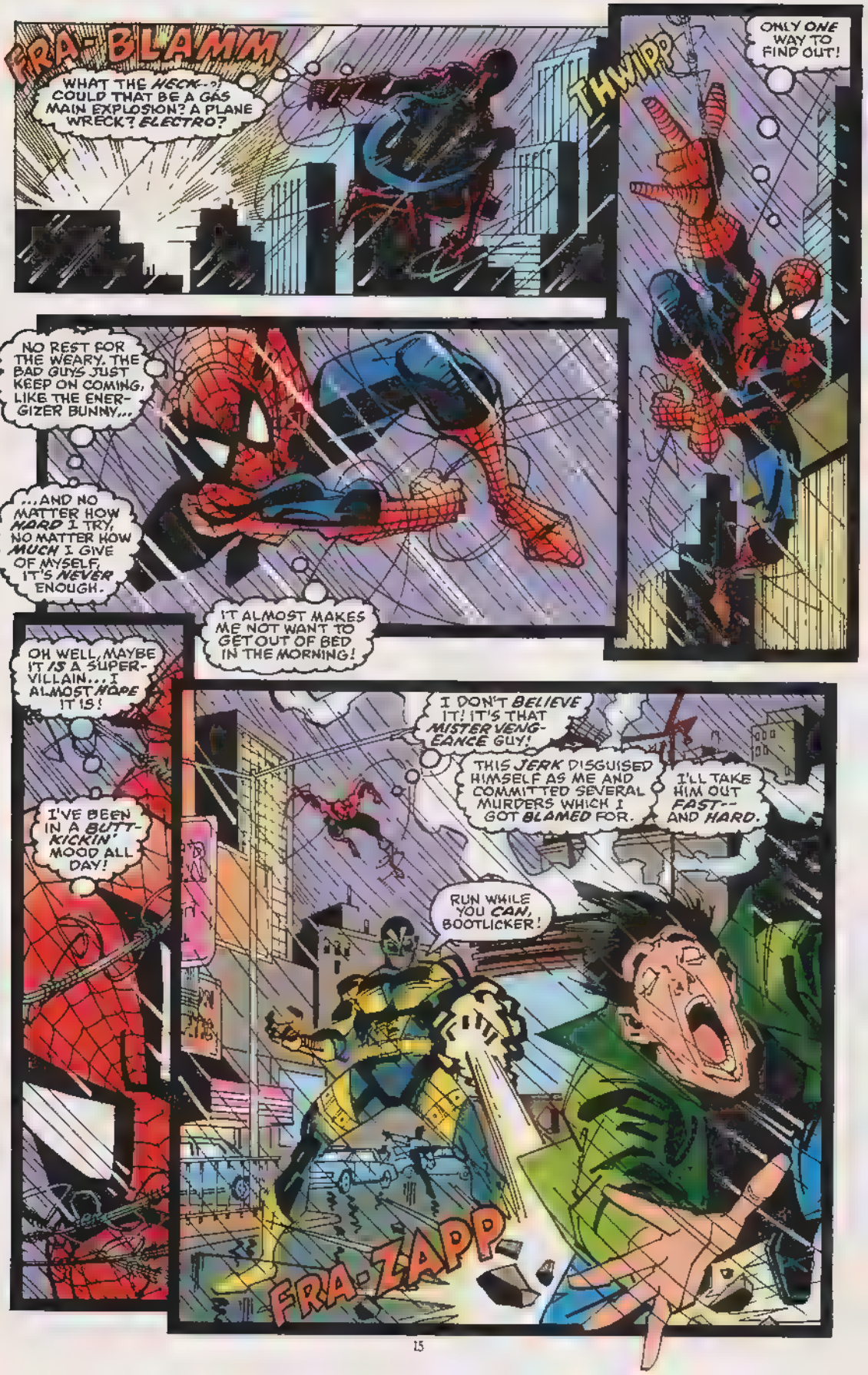

UPTOWN, ON THE EAST SIDE.
FEELS LIKE I'M ON AUTOMATIC PILOT. I'M HUNGRY... NEED SLEEP... SHOULD GO HOME TO MARY JANE.
YEAH... SHOULD. SHOULD DO A LOT OF THINGS.
FACE IT, WEB-SLINGER, AIMLESSLY CRISSCROSSING TOWN IN THE POURING RAIN LOOKING FOR TROUBLE JUST ISN'T AS MUCH FUN AS IT USED TO BE.
POW
WHAT THE HECK?! WAS THAT A SHOT?!
NO... IT'S A BLOW-OUT! THAT TRACTOR TRAILER'S IN BIG TROUBLE... HYDRO-PLANING OUT OF CONTROL ON THE WET ROAD!
I'D BETTER ACT FAST IF I WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
BECAUSE DESPITE MY PROTESTATIONS TO THE CONTRARY...
...MAKING A DIFFERENCE IS WHAT BEING SPIDER-MAN IS ALL ABOUT!
SCREECCHHH
THWIPP
THIS HAD BETTER WORK, SPIDEY, BECAUSE THERE WON'T BE TIME FOR ANY SECOND CHANCES!
AAAHHH!!!
THWAPP


BETTER MOUNT MYSELF TO ONE OF THE CONCRETE SUPPORT COLUMNS.
IF THIS BABY FLIES OVER THE EDGE, I'M GOING TO NEED EVERY OUNCE OF STRENGTH I HAVE!
CRASH
HELP!
SCREEECH
HONNK HONNNK
CRIPES... TRUCK'S HEAVIER THAN IT LOOKED! I'LL BE CALLING 1-800 HERNIA IN THE MORNING!
CAN THE JOKES, SPIDEY... THIS IS TOO IMPORTANT!
THAT DRIVER COULD BE A FAMILY MAN... A FATHER!
CREEAKKK...
AND NO KID ANYWHERE IS GOING TO BE ORPHANED LIKE PETER PARKER WAS IF SPIDER-MAN CAN HELP IT!
COME ON, PARKER... TOUGH IT OUT! YOU CAN...
WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW?
I DID IT!

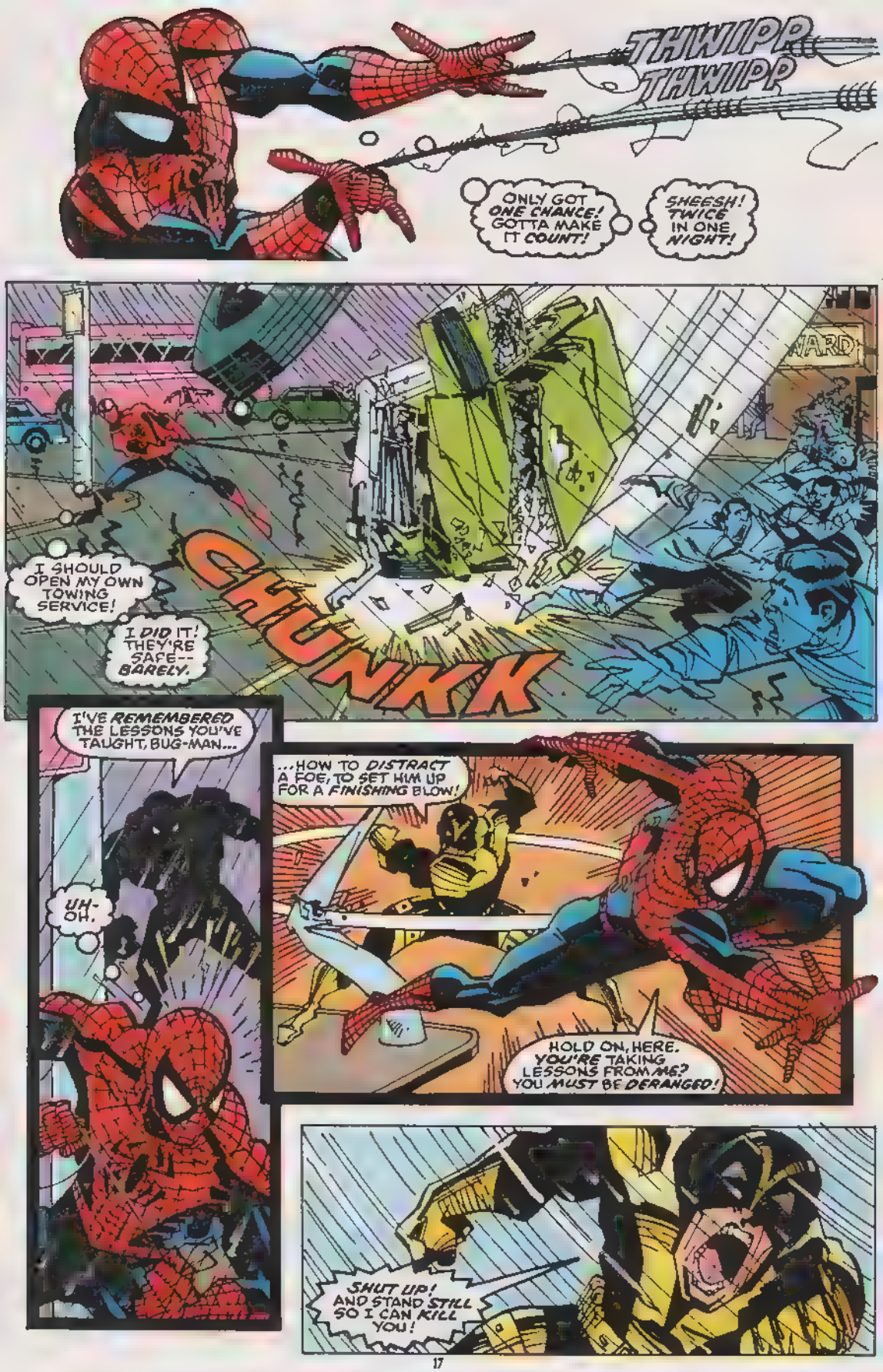

TRUCK'S TEETERING—WE'RE NOT OUT OF THE WOODS JUST YET!
ANY QUICK CHANGE IN THE WEIGHT BALANCE AND THE TRUCK CAN STILL FALL INTO THE RIVER!
JUST STAY CALM, BUDDY... OKAY?
THWIPP
THWIPP
YEAH... I GUESS I'D BE KINDA JUMPY TOO IF I WAS IN YOUR SHOES.
SPIDER-SENSE HAS CALMED DOWN. THE RIG'S SECURED TO THE BRIDGE'S FRAMEWORK.
THE DANGER'S PASSED!
OKAY, PAL, THIS IS WHERE YOU GET OFF!
WHOA! AND NONE TOO SOON, EITHER!
THANKS, SPIDEY! THANKS A MILLION!
I'M HAULIN' A LOAD OF THEM DESIGNER DRESSES. HOW 'BOUT ONE FOR THE LITTLE LADY?
SORRY, PAL, BUT WE SPIDER-MEN CAN'T BE TAKING KICKBACKS FOR OUR GOOD DEEDS. BUT IF YOU WANT TO HELP ME OUT...
...BUY A BETTER BRAND OF TIRE.
THERE GOES ONE HECK OF A GUY!

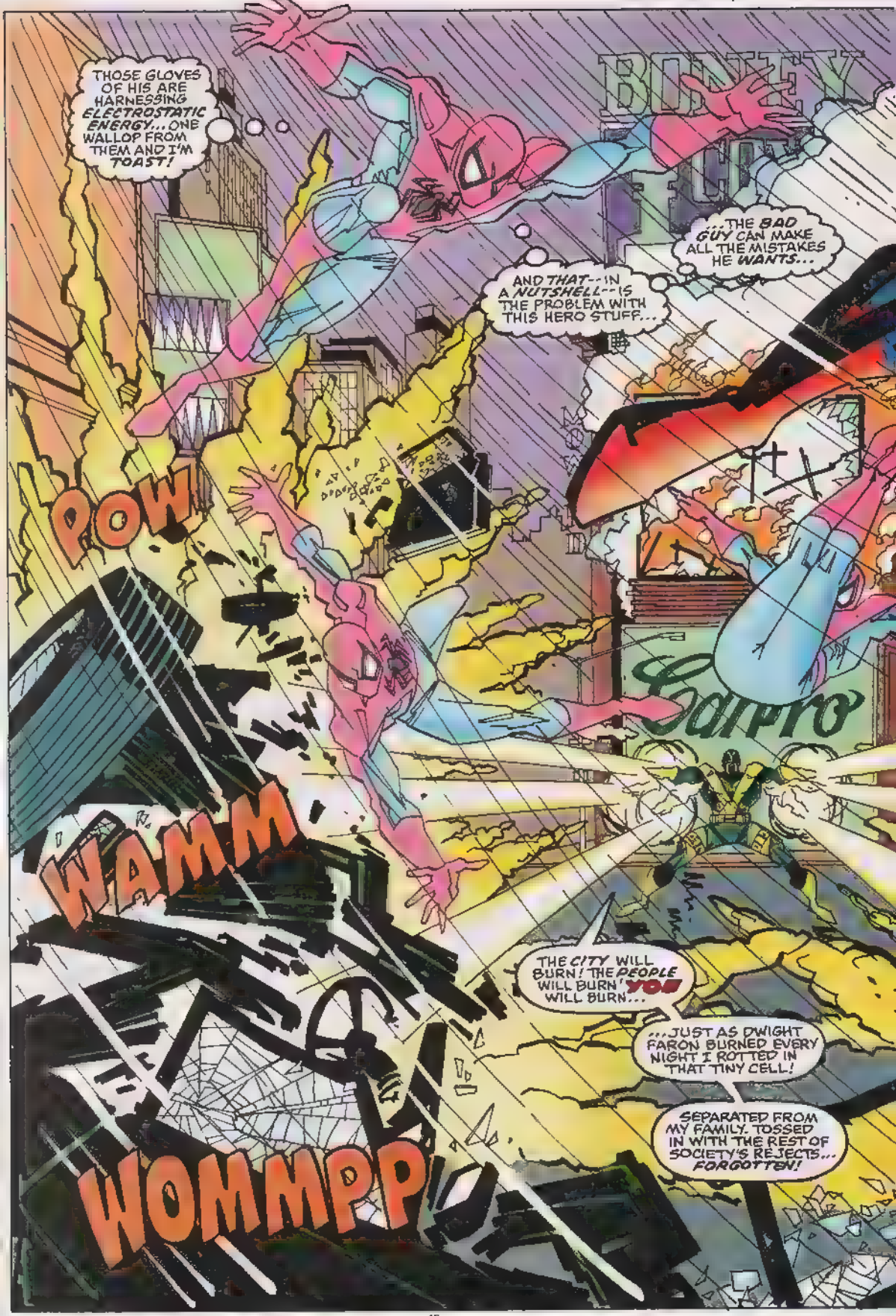
AN ANONYMOUS FLOPHOUSE IN TIMES SQUARE...
BURG
KON
THAT STORAGE LOCKER IN THE PORT AUTHORITY BUS TERMINAL MAY NOT HAVE BEEN GLAMOROUS...
...BUT IT CERTAINLY WAS SECURE!
IT WAS SPIDER-MAN WHO THWARTED MY FIRST VENTURES INTO CRIME... RESULTING IN MY FAMILY'S DESERTION!
I FELT THE COLD SLAP OF MY WIFE'S HAND EVEN THROUGH THE THICK PRISON GLASS.
I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER HER LAST WORDS TO ME:
"I'M SO DISAPPOINTED IN YOU, DWIGHT."
CURSE SPIDER-MAN FOR COSTING ME ALL THAT I HELD DEAR!
HE CREATED THE MASTER OF VENGEANCE! HE IS MY FATHER--MAKING ME WHAT I AM TODAY! AND NOW MY FATHER MUST DIE!
IT WAS EXPENSIVE HAVING AN EXTRA COSTUME MADE, BUT SINCE IT'S SURVIVED MY BRIEF INCARCERATION, IT WAS WELL WORTH THE INVESTMENT!
NOW I MAY CLAIM THE VENGEANCE THAT IS MY NAMESAKE!

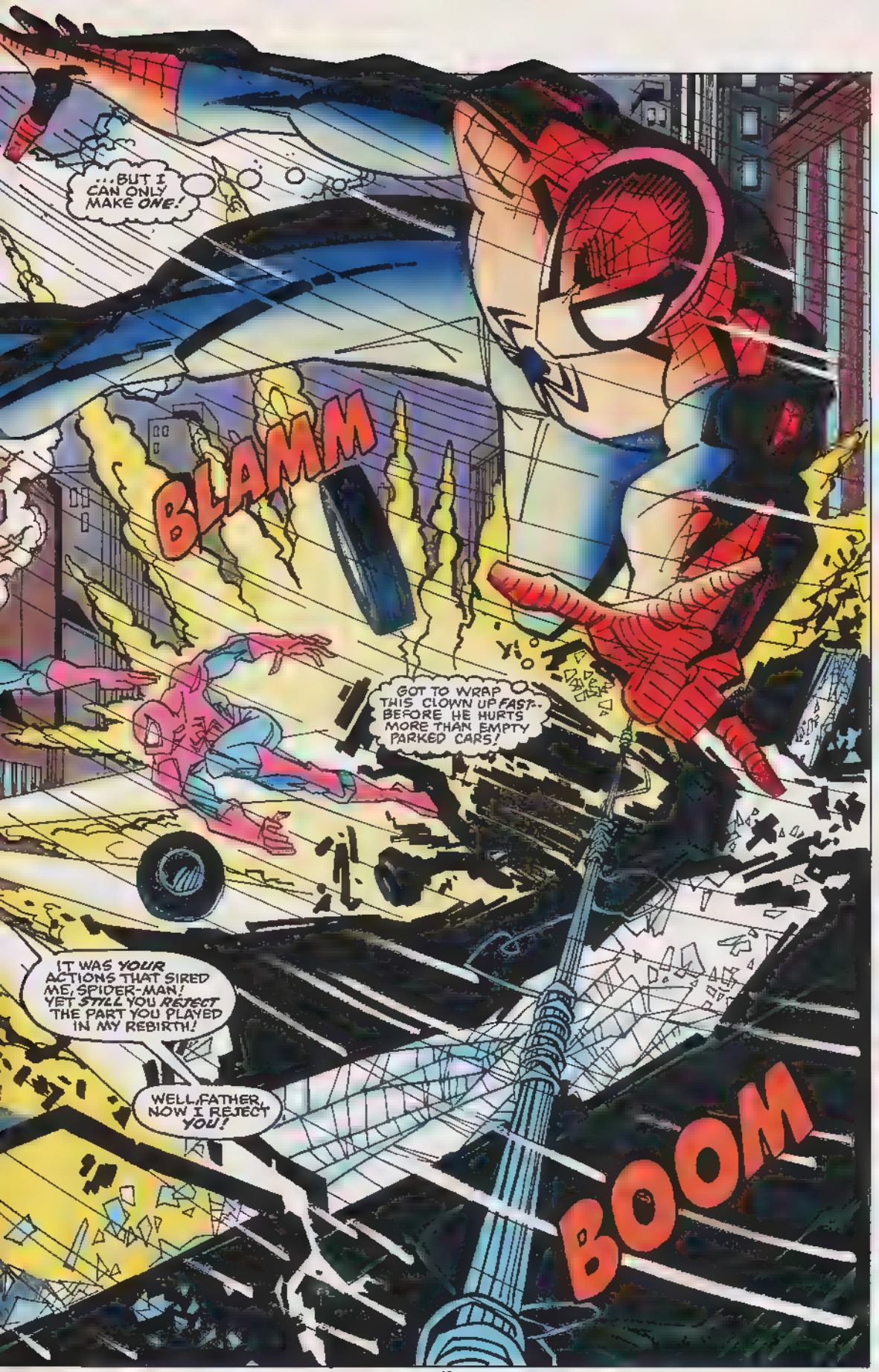
MY PLAN IS A SIMPLE ONE...
...I'LL SIMPLY BLAST EVERYTHING IN SIGHT UNTIL SPIDER-MAN SHOWS UP.
HEY, WATCH IT, YA IDIOT!
SHUT UP, YOU FAT PIG.
CURSE THEM ALL! THEY HAVE NO RESPECT!
THIS PLACE... FAMILIAR. I WAS HERE BEFORE, IN HAPPIER TIMES. BEFORE MY HEART WAS FILLED WITH RAGE.
ENJOY
Take a Coke
NOW THE SIGHT OF IT JUST MAKES ME SICK.
FRA-BLAMM
AND IF I CAN HAVE VENGEANCE HERE...
...I CAN HAVE IT ANYWHERE!
THIS IS IT, NEW YORK! THE BIG TIME!

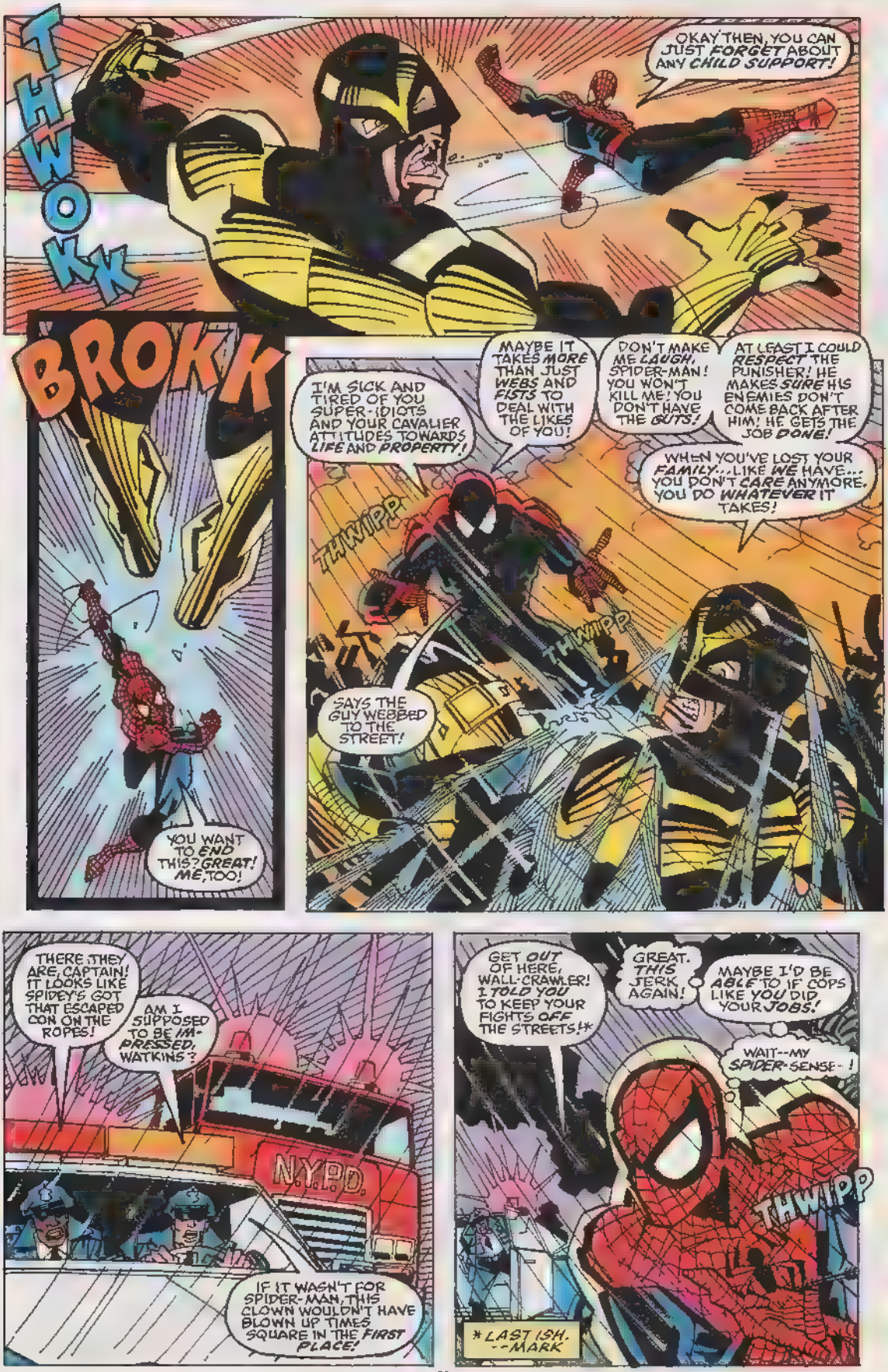

FRA-BLAMM
WHAT THE HECK--? COULD THAT BE A GAS MAIN EXPLOSION? A PLANE WRECK? ELECTRO?
THWIPP
ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT!
NO REST FOR THE WEARY. THE BAD GUYS JUST KEEP ON COMING, LIKE THE ENERGIZER BUNNY...
...AND NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY, NO MATTER HOW MUCH I GIVE OF MYSELF, IT'S NEVER ENOUGH.
IT ALMOST MAKES ME NOT WANT TO GET OUT OF BED IN THE MORNING!
OH WELL, MAYBE IT IS A SUPER-VILLAIN... I ALMOST HOPE IT IS!
I'VE BEEN IN A BUTT-KICKIN' MOOD ALL DAY!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! IT'S THAT MISTER VENGEANCE GUY!
THIS JERK DISGUISED HIMSELF AS ME AND COMMITTED SEVERAL MURDERS WHICH I GOT BLAMED FOR.
I'LL TAKE HIM OUT FAST-- AND HARD.
RUN WHILE YOU CAN, BOOTLICKER!
FRA-ZAPP

HI, STUPID! REMEMBER ME?!
BWAPP
OF COURSE I DO!
YOU ARE THE PINNACLE TO WHICH I ASPIRE!
YOUR DEATH IS MY LIFE! I'VE LOST COUNT OF THE TIMES I'VE DREAMT OF KILL-ING YOU!
STRANGLING YOU!
STOMPING YOU!
AND NOW... FINALLY. AGAIN I HAVE THE POWER TO DO IT! BUT JUST TO BE SPORT-ING, I'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO ESCAPE!
HERE... I'LL EVEN GRAB A TAXICAB FOR YOU!
CATCH!
NO!
HE DOESN'T CARE WHO HE RUNS OVER TO GET TO ME!
IF ANYONE WAS TO GET KILLED BECAUSE OF ME...


THWIPP
THWIPP
ONLY GOT ONE CHANCE! GOTTA MAKE IT COUNT!
SHEESH! TWICE IN ONE NIGHT!
I SHOULD OPEN MY OWN TOWING SERVICE!
I DID IT! THEY'RE SAFE-- BARELY.
CHUNKK
I'VE REMEMBERED THE LESSONS YOU'VE TAUGHT, BUG-MAN...
UH-OH.
...HOW TO DISTRACT A FOE, TO SET HIM UP FOR A FINISHING BLOW!
HOLD ON, HERE. YOU'RE TAKING LESSONS FROM ME? YOU MUST BE DERANGED!
SHUT UP! AND STAND STILL SO I CAN KILL YOU!

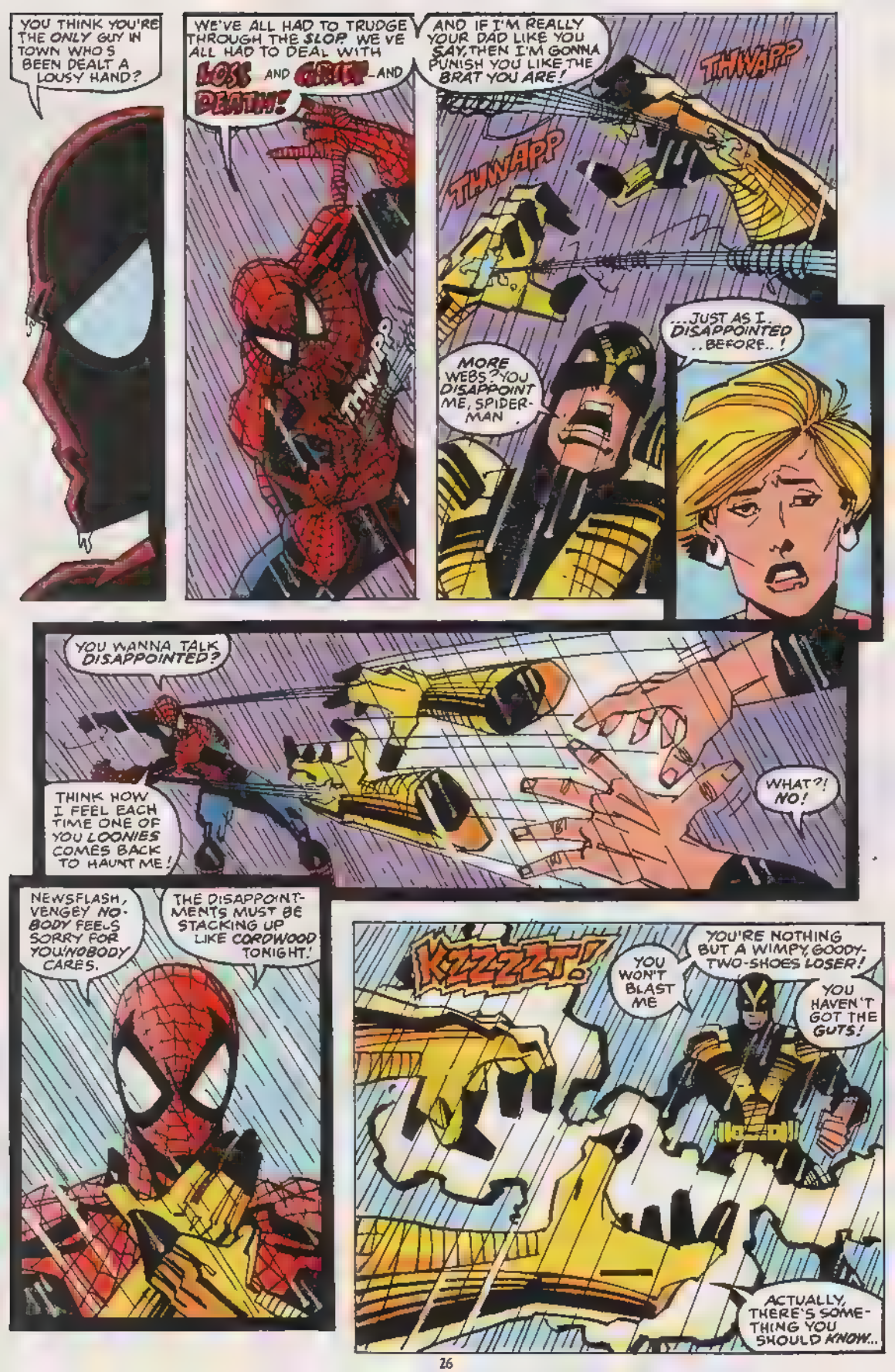

THOSE GLOVES OF HIS ARE HARNESSING ELECTROSTATIC ENERGY... ONE WALLOP FROM THEM AND I'M TOAST!
AND THAT--IN A NUTSHELL--IS THE PROBLEM WITH THIS HERO STUFF...
...THE BAD GUY CAN MAKE ALL THE MISTAKES HE WANTS...
POW
WAMM
WOMMPP
THE CITY WILL BURN! THE PEOPLE WILL BURN! YOU WILL BURN...
...JUST AS DWIGHT FARON BURNED EVERY NIGHT I ROTTED IN THAT TINY CELL!
SEPARATED FROM MY FAMILY. TOSSED IN WITH THE REST OF SOCIETY'S REJECTS... FORGOTTEN!

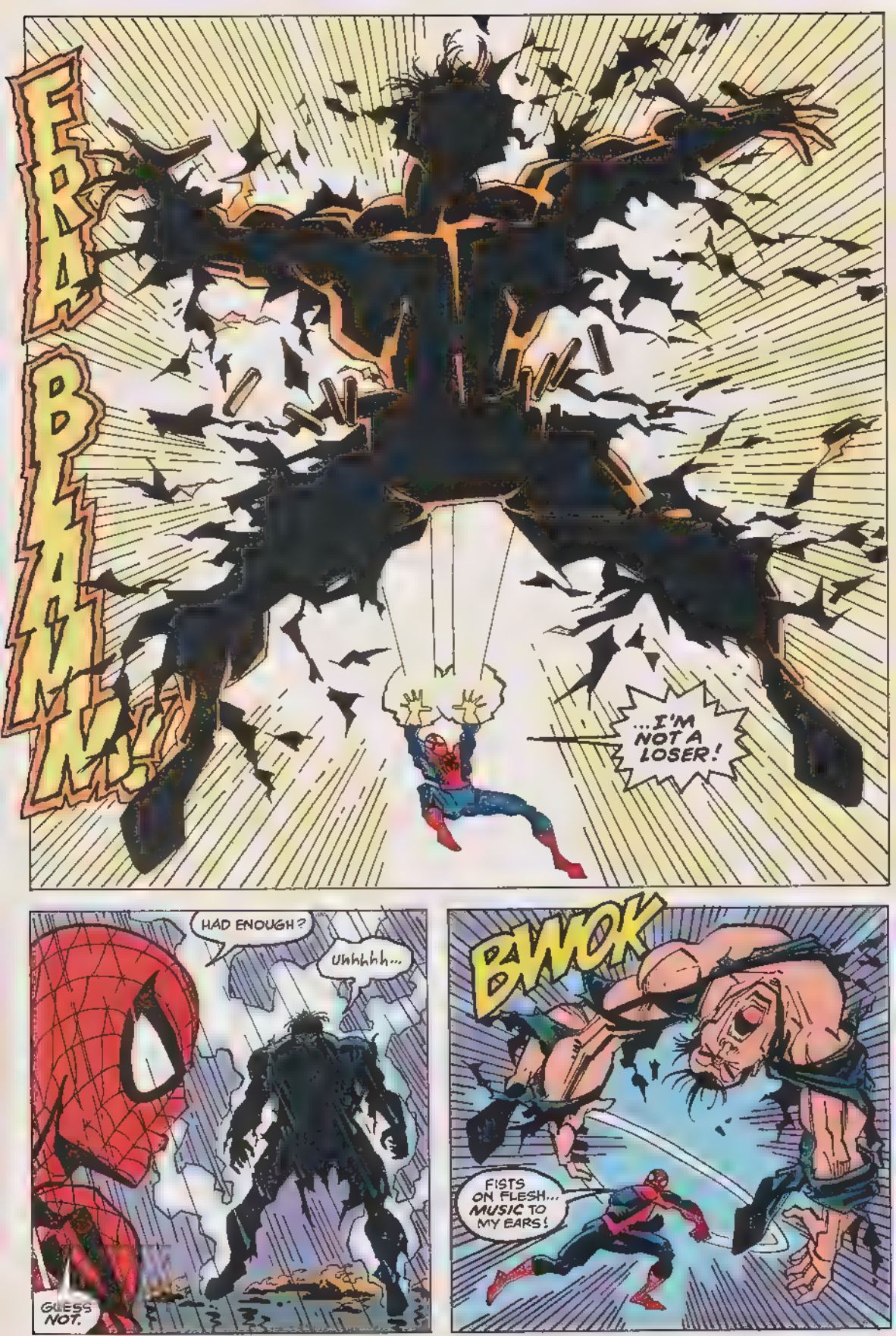

...BUT I CAN ONLY MAKE ONE!
BLAMM
GOT TO WRAP THIS CLOWN UP FAST-- BEFORE HE HURTS MORE THAN EMPTY PARKED CARS!
IT WAS YOUR ACTIONS THAT SIRED ME, SPIDER-MAN! YET STILL YOU REJECT THE PART YOU PLAYED IN MY REBIRTH!
WELL, FATHER, NOW I REJECT YOU!
BOOM

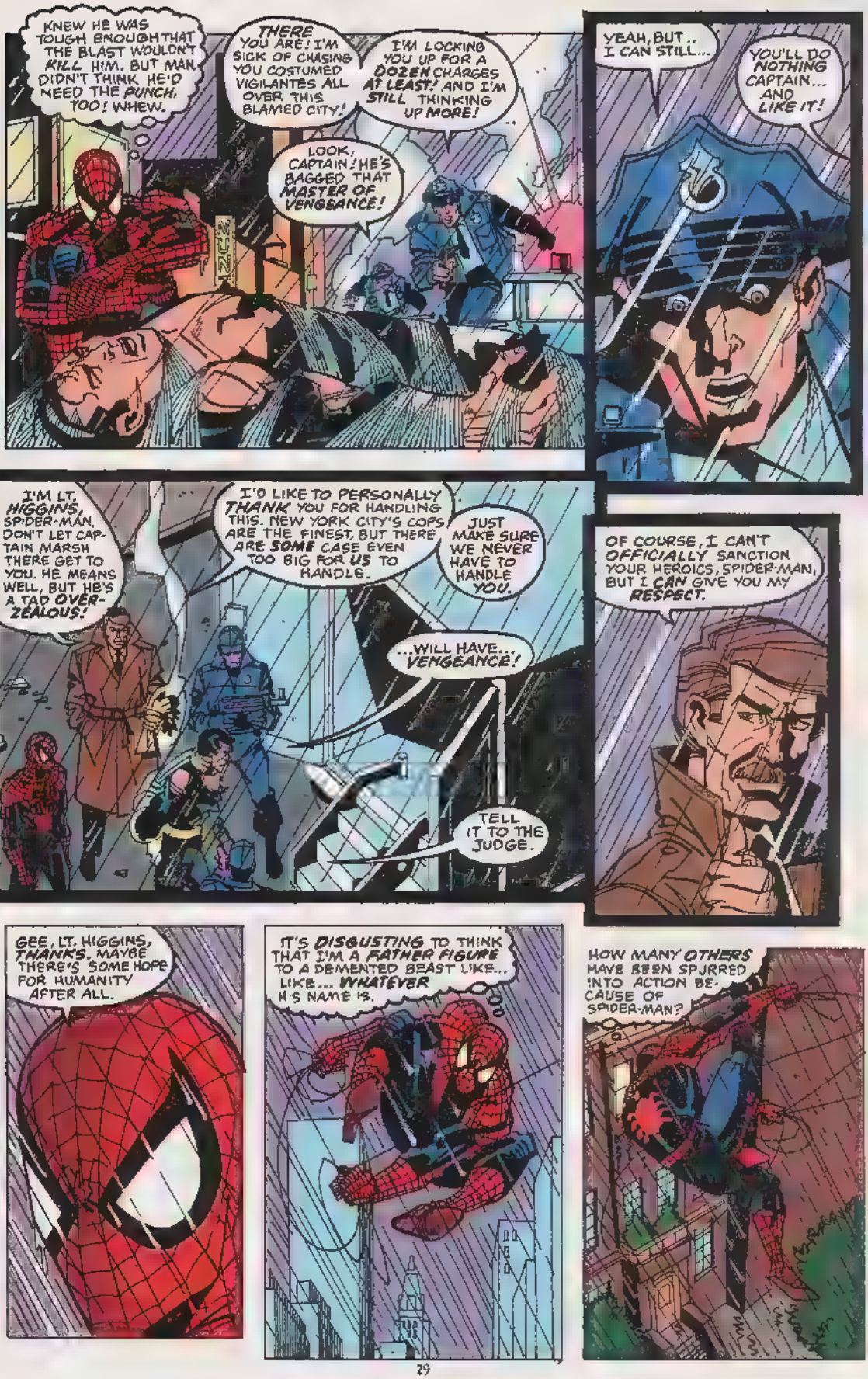

THWOKK
OKAY THEN, YOU CAN JUST FORGET ABOUT ANY CHILD SUPPORT!
BROKK
YOU WANT TO END THIS? GREAT! ME, TOO!
I'M SICK AND TIRED OF YOU SUPER-IDIOTS AND YOUR CAVALIER ATTITUDES TOWARDS LIFE AND PROPERTY!
MAYBE IT TAKES MORE THAN JUST WEBS AND FISTS TO DEAL WITH THE LIKES OF YOU!
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH, SPIDER-MAN! YOU WON'T KILL ME! YOU DON'T HAVE THE GUTS!
AT LEAST I COULD RESPECT THE PUNISHER! HE MAKES SURE HIS ENEMIES DON'T COME BACK AFTER HIM! HE GETS THE JOB DONE!
WHEN YOU'VE LOST YOUR FAMILY...LIKE WE HAVE... YOU DON'T CARE ANYMORE. YOU DO WHATEVER IT TAKES!
THWIPP
THWIPP
SAYS THE GUY WEBBED TO THE STREET!
THERE THEY ARE, CAPTAIN! IT LOOKS LIKE SPIDEY'S GOT THAT ESCAPED CON ON THE ROPES!
AM I SUPPOSED TO BE IMPRESSED, WATKINS?
N.Y.P.D.
IF IT WASN'T FOR SPIDER-MAN, THIS CLOWN WOULDN'T HAVE BLOWN UP TIMES SQUARE IN THE FIRST PLACE!
GET OUT OF HERE, WALL-CRAWLER! I TOLD YOU TO KEEP YOUR FIGHTS OFF THE STREETS!*
GREAT. THIS JERK AGAIN!
MAYBE I'D BE ABLE TO IF COPS LIKE YOU DID YOUR JOBS!
WAIT--MY SPIDER-SENSE--!
THWIPP
* LAST ISH. --MARK

SHR-R-REDD
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TURNED YOUR BACK ON ME, SPIDER-MAN!
THAT WAS THE WORST THING YOU COULD HAVE POSSIBLY DONE!
A HUMILIATION I JUST WON'T STAND FOR!
OOPS.
WE'RE GONNA NEED MORE MAN-POWER! SOMEBODY CALL CON ED AND GET 'EM TO TURN OFF THE GAS MAINS BEFORE WE BLOW SKY HIGH!
SPLAMM
YOU STILL DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?!
I WANT THE CITY TO BURN! AS A SYMBOL OF MY POWER... A METAPHOR FOR MY TRIUMPH OVER SPIDER-MAN!
YOWW! HE'S NUTS!
NO KIDDIN'!
AND AFTER THE CITY HAS BURNED... I'LL ROAST YOUR CORPSE, SPIDER-MAN!
INCINERATE YOUR BONES TO ASHES!
FLAME BURGERS
AND THEN BURN THE ASHES!
CAN'T JUST GO TOE-TO-TOE WITH SUCH A POWERFUL FOE. I'LL HAVE TO TAKE A HIT AND RUN APPROACH
HE'S TOTALLY LOST CONTROL OF HIMSELF - MAYBE I CAN ROPE-A-DOPE HIM... TIRE HIM OUT!
AND THEN CLOBBER HIM!

YOU KNOW, ALL THIS TALK ABOUT FIRE IS REALLY GOING TO UPSET THOSE BEAVIS AND BUTT-HEAD VIEWERS!
IF YOU CAN'T RANT RESPONSIBLY, YOU SHOULDN'T RANT AT ALL!
PWAP
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!
THWAKK
I'VE LIVED THROUGH A DOZEN CHEMICAL ALTERATIONS OF MY PHYSICAL STRUCTURE!
INGESTED DRUGS THAT WOULD HAVE KILLED A LESSER MAN!
MY ELECTRO-STATIC GLOVES MAKE MY BODY A LIVING BATTERY FOR IONIC ENERGY!
BAMM
IT WAS WORTH A TRY.
I'VE SURVIVED EXPLOSIONS! I'VE HAD BUILDINGS FALL ON MY HEAD!
AND YOU WANT TO TAKE ME OUT WITH A MEASLY KNUCKLE-SANDWICH?
YOU ARE MY FATHER IN SO MANY WAYS!
YOUR MEDDLING INTERVENTION REARED ME INTO A NEW LIFE OF PAIN, AND A TWISTED DESIRE FOR VENGEANCE.
NOW I WILL FULFILL MY DESTINY AS SPIDER-MAN'S "SON," BY INHERITING NEW YORK CITY AND ENFORCING MY LAWS JUST AS YOU DO YOURS!


YOU THINK YOU'RE THE ONLY GUY IN TOWN WHO'S BEEN DEALT A LOUSY HAND?
WE'VE ALL HAD TO TRUDGE THROUGH THE SLOP. WE'VE ALL HAD TO DEAL WITH LOSS AND GRIEF—AND DEATH!
THWAPP
AND IF I'M REALLY YOUR DAD LIKE YOU SAY, THEN I'M GONNA PUNISH YOU LIKE THE BRAT YOU ARE!
THWAPP
THWAPP
MORE WEBS? YOU DISAPPOINT ME, SPIDER-MAN.
...JUST AS I DISAPPOINTED ..BEFORE..!
YOU WANNA TALK DISAPPOINTED?
THINK HOW I FEEL EACH TIME ONE OF YOU LOONIES COMES BACK TO HAUNT ME!
WHAT?! NO!
NEWSFLASH, VENGEY NOBODY FEELS SORRY FOR YOU! NOBODY CARES.
THE DISAPPOINTMENTS MUST BE STACKING UP LIKE CORDWOOD TONIGHT!
KZZZZT!
YOU WON'T BLAST ME
YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A WIMPY, GOODY-TWO-SHOES LOSER!
YOU HAVEN'T GOT THE GUTS!
ACTUALLY, THERE'S SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW...


KRA-BOOM!!
...I'M NOT A LOSER!
HAD ENOUGH?
Uhhhhh...
GUESS NOT.
BAMOK
FISTS ON FLESH... MUSIC TO MY EARS!


KNEW HE WAS TOUGH ENOUGH THAT THE BLAST WOULDN'T KILL HIM. BUT MAN, DIDN'T THINK HE'D NEED THE PUNCH, TOO! WHEW.
THERE YOU ARE! I'M SICK OF CHASING YOU COSTUMED VIGILANTES ALL OVER THIS BLAMED CITY!
I'M LOCKING YOU UP FOR A DOZEN CHARGES AT LEAST! AND I'M STILL THINKING UP MORE!
LOOK, CAPTAIN! HE'S BAGGED THAT MASTER OF VENGEANCE!
YEAH, BUT.. I CAN STILL...
YOU'LL DO NOTHING CAPTAIN... AND LIKE IT!
I'M LT. HIGGINS, SPIDER-MAN. DON'T LET CAPTAIN MARSH THERE GET TO YOU. HE MEANS WELL, BUT HE'S A TAD OVER-ZEALOUS!
I'D LIKE TO PERSONALLY THANK YOU FOR HANDLING THIS. NEW YORK CITY'S COPS ARE THE FINEST, BUT THERE ARE SOME CASE EVEN TOO BIG FOR US TO HANDLE.
JUST MAKE SURE WE NEVER HAVE TO HANDLE YOU.
...WILL HAVE... VENGEANCE!
TELL IT TO THE JUDGE.
OF COURSE, I CAN'T OFFICIALLY SANCTION YOUR HEROICS, SPIDER-MAN, BUT I CAN GIVE YOU MY RESPECT.
GEE, LT. HIGGINS, THANKS. MAYBE THERE'S SOME HOPE FOR HUMANITY AFTER ALL.
IT'S DISGUSTING TO THINK THAT I'M A FATHER FIGURE TO A DEMENTED BEAST LIKE... LIKE... WHATEVER H'S NAME IS.
HOW MANY OTHERS HAVE BEEN SPURRED INTO ACTION BECAUSE OF SPIDER-MAN?

DO OUR ACTIONS AFFECT OTHERS, SOMETIMES WITHOUT OUR KNOWING IT?
ARE WE PARENTS TO OURSELVES, FORCED TO DO WHAT WE THINK IS RIGHT, DESPITE THE FOUL HAND LIFE SOMETIMES DEALS US?
IS IT POSSIBLE FOR ONE PERSON TO BE A WALKING DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY?
I WON'T LET THIS DESTROY US, MARY JANE.
I PROMISE YOU...I WON'T.
NEXT ISSUE:
TYPHOID MARY

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAIL

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

MARK POWERS
EDITOR
DANNY FINGEROTH
GROUP EDITOR

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

SUPER 'BOYS II

Here's something Flash Thompson would appreciate. I know it's the end of March as you're reading this, about two months after Super Bowl XXVIII--but for me, it just happened! So I wanted to take this time to congratulate the World Champion Dallas Cowboys on yet another great year. At the beginning of the year I had a lot of bozos around here reminding me how no team had ever started a season 0-2 and made it to the Super Bowl. Well, that stat was D-stroyed, just like last year's "no NFL rushing champion has ever won the Super Bowl in the same season." Thanks to Emmitt, Michael, Troy, and the rest of da 'Boys for a thrilling year!

In addition, I'd like to congratulate Tony Dorsett and Randy White on being elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, both in their first year of eligibility.

Well, that's it for now--or at least until July, when quarterbacks and rookies report to training camp. I guess there's really only one thing left to say:

HOW 'BOUT THEM COWBOYS?!

Dear Mark,

Following a highly successful and critically acclaimed run by J.M. DeMatteis has to be one of the toughest assignments that can be undertaken by a writer, and in a few issues Steven Grant has shown us that he has the required always been a Peter Parker and cast-oriented book, and I am pleased to see Steven continue this trend. Even in issue #209, which concentrated mainly on Peter's alter ego, we still witnessed Peter being informed of editorial changes at the Daily Bugle that have effectively put him out of work as a live-action photographer, and Maria's demand for a divorce from J.J.J., developments that no doubt will create havoc and turmoil for many of our favorite supporting characters. Nice work!

Sal Buscema is usually at his best when he inks his own pencils, and this issue was no exception. But what I consider to be Sal's forte is his ability to tell a story without words, a talent recognized and used with effect several times in the past by J.M. DeMatteis. I hope Steven intends to do the same.

Now I don't usually enjoy back-up features, and Felicia Hardy is a character I have not particularly cared for in the past, but Steven has somehow in five short pages changed my opinion of her and has me hoping Flash Thompson accepts her marriage proposal. The only down side was the inconsistency of Nelson Ortega's artwork, but he has got definite potential. See you in thirty.

Peter Tong
21 Parkdale
Pointe-Clair,
Quebec ,CANADA H9R 3Y4

Thanks for writing in, Peter. Overcoming the specter of one's previous success is never easy and we're glad to see you enjoyed Steven's stint on the book. Keep your eyes peeled for Ann Nocenti in issues #213 and #214, and for our new regular writer, Tom DeFalco, in #215.

As you know by now, Flash turned down Felicia's proposal--how does that sit with you?

Dear Spectacular Spider-Mail,

After reading both exciting stories in SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #209, I'm wondering how Peter is going to make a living! I hope he eventually finds a better job at the Bugle, or just a totally different job, not at the Bugle at all. Maybe he should take up performing again, as Spider-Man, now that J.J. isn't printing stories about Spider-Man anymore (that was the reason he had to quit in the first place, wasn't it?).

Also, the back-up story about the Black Cat was great, but does this mean we won't see Felicia Hardy as the Black Cat anymore? I hope not! I will stay tuned for the rest of the stories, so until another great issue comes out . . .

Chad Coyle
110 NE 40th Terr.
Kansas City, MO 64116

Well, Chad, it looks like you've caught most of our characters at some major crossroads. Peter's employment future--heck, his future period-- is very uncertain at the moment, and with J.J. still hanging around, it's doubtful his performing career could get very far. As for Felicia, if your interest in her is piqued, pick up the BLACK CAT Limited series, "Chimera Lost," due out in May. It'll be by TERRY KAVANAGH, our own WEB and NIGHTWATCH scribe, and ANDREW (X-MEN ADVENTURES) WILDMAN!

Dear Mark,

Issue #209 was intriguing, but the payoff better match the buildup. I've always been a fan of the Punisher (oops, Foreigner), and I'm glad to see he's getting outdoors more. Yes, he was interesting and all in his previous appearances, but so little was done with him. Now, it appears we may get to see a little bit of how the Foreigner thinks and reacts in certain situations. Lord knows, I've been dying for some answers for years! Looking forward to some revelations.

Mark Davis
34 Knobhill Dr.
Clinton, NJ 11228

So, you want to know more about the Foreigner, eh Mark? Hopefully the just-completed storyline provided you with some answers. Look for more answers in the months to come, and check out Forry in upcoming issues of SILVER SABLE!

Dear Mark,

First Tombstone, now the Foreigner. It's nice to see a comic that gives some focus and depth to its villains, rather than simply using them as punching bags of the month. I'm learning more about Spidey's opponents than I ever did before. Thanks for the info!

Charles Springer
(Address withheld by request)

It's our pleasure.

Dear Mark,

I can't really remember when any of the Spider-books delved into the personal problems of the supporting characters as much as this one does. Other than the MJ/smoking saga, none of the characters (besides Peter) were getting a whole lot of air-time. Spectacular has definitely changed that. All of the sudden, I'm getting my fill of happenings at the Bugle, the lives of JJJ and Maria Madison, and some stuff on Flash and the Black Cat! It's good to be able to keep up with their lives since doing so makes the characters, and thus the book all the more realistic. Please, never stop doing the stories you do.

Rick Boddicker
(Address withheld by request)

As you know by now, Rick, things are really coming to a head between Jonah and Maria! Stay tuned!

NEXT ISSUE: Spidey vs. Typhoid Mary, Round One! It's written by Ann Nocenti (DAREDEVIL, LONGSHOT, *Kid Eternity*) and drawn by James Fry (MOON KNIGHT)--the sparks are gonna fly!

BULLPEN BULLETINS

MARVEL COMICS

FUN PAGE!

SUPER SONGS

Over the years, many Marvel superstars have gone from comic superstars to TV stars — usually accompanied by a catchy theme song. Most true Marveloids can recite those old classic theme songs by heart. Let's see how good your musical memory is. Can you match the Marvel hero with the verse form the song written about him?

1) *"He's a cool exec with a heart of steel."*
2) *"Stronger than a whale, he can swim anywhere."*
3) *"All those who chose to oppose his shield must yield."*
4) *"Ain't he un-glamorous?"*
5) *"Is he strong? Listen, Bud. He's got radioactive blood."*

A) Hulk
B) Captain America
C) Spider-Man
D) Sub-Mariner
E) Iron Man

UNGLAMOROUS ANSWERS: 1) E; 2) D; 3) B; 4) A; 5) C

AMAZIN' ANAGRAMS!

We've scrambled the names of some of your favorite Marvel heroes and villains. Let's see if you're not to mixed up to figure out who's who.

1) WINE LOVER
2) PAWS
3) BIG MAT
4) NAME DRIPS
5) SEVER NAG
6) A LEAD POD
7) GEAR
8) EVIL RED AD
9) RAM ON
10) RED HOT RIGS
11) DO MAN
12) HIP RUNES
13) LOW RACK
14) NOT A GEM
15) SOOTHE BRATS
16) SUMO RIB

ANSWERS: 1) WOLVERINE; 2) WASP; 3) GAMBIT; 4) SPIDER-MAN; 5) AVENGERS; 6) DEADPOOL; 7) RAGE; 8) DAREDEVIL; 9) NAMOR; 10) GHOST RIDER; 11) NOMAD; 12) PUNISHER; 13) WARLOCK; 14) MAGNETO; 15) SABRE TOOTH; 16) MORBIUS

YOU WRITE THE SONGS

As long as we're in a musical mood, let's keep the rhythm flowing by having another reader participation challenge! Every great organization has to have a theme song to sing its praises — like that "Union Label" song you used to hear on TV. It occurred to us that many legendary Marvel institutions do not have a song to call their own.

Here's where you come in. Doctor Doom wants a theme song for his country, Latveria. You know, something Roseanne Arnold can sing at Latverian baseball games. We want YOU to write the Latverian theme song. You can write it to the tune of another popular song, or make up your own tune!

Send your answers in to:
Latverian Theme Song
C/o Bullpen Bulletins Page
387 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10016

We'll print the best ones in a future BBP. The winners will get some nifty prizes — actual stuff found lying around the offices of Marvel Comics! (Sorry, we can't give away any trips to Latveria!) Send your entries in *today*!

Remember — Doc Doom is waiting — and he's one doctor with no patience!

IN THE NICK OF NAMES

Just as our super heroes often have two names — a super hero name and a civilian identity — so too do some of our creators! Here's a list of some of Marvel's best-known writers and artists. Let's see if you can remember their Marvel nicknames!

1) Stan _____ Lee
2) Jack _____ Kirby
3) _____ Steve Ditko
4) _____ John Buscema
5) _____ Sal Buscema
6) Roy _____ Thomas
7) Gene _____ Colan
8) _____ Marie Severin
9) _____ Johnny Romita
10) _____ Joe Sinnott

ANSWERS: 1) "The Man" 2) "King" 3) "Sturdy" 4) "Big" 5) "Our Pal" 6) "The Boy" 7) "The Dean" 8) "Mirthful" 9) "Jazzy" 10) "Johtto"

CAUGHT IN THE ACT

Over the years, Marvel heroes have been portrayed on the big screen by some of Hollywood's most famous and talented thespians! Let's see how well you know your Marvel movie and TV shows. Can you match the actor with the super hero he brought to life?

1) Alex Hyde-White
2) Reb Brown
3) Nicholas Hammond
4) Peter Hooten
5) Dolph Lundgren
6) Matt Salinger
7) Rex Smith
8) Bill Bixby

A) Punisher
B) The Hulk
C) Mr. Fantastic
D) Captain America
E) Daredevil
F) Dr. Strange
G) Spider-Man

(HINT: Two of the actors listed above played Captain America!)

ANSWERS: 1) C; 2) D; 3) G; 4) E; 5) A; 6) D; 7) E; 8) B

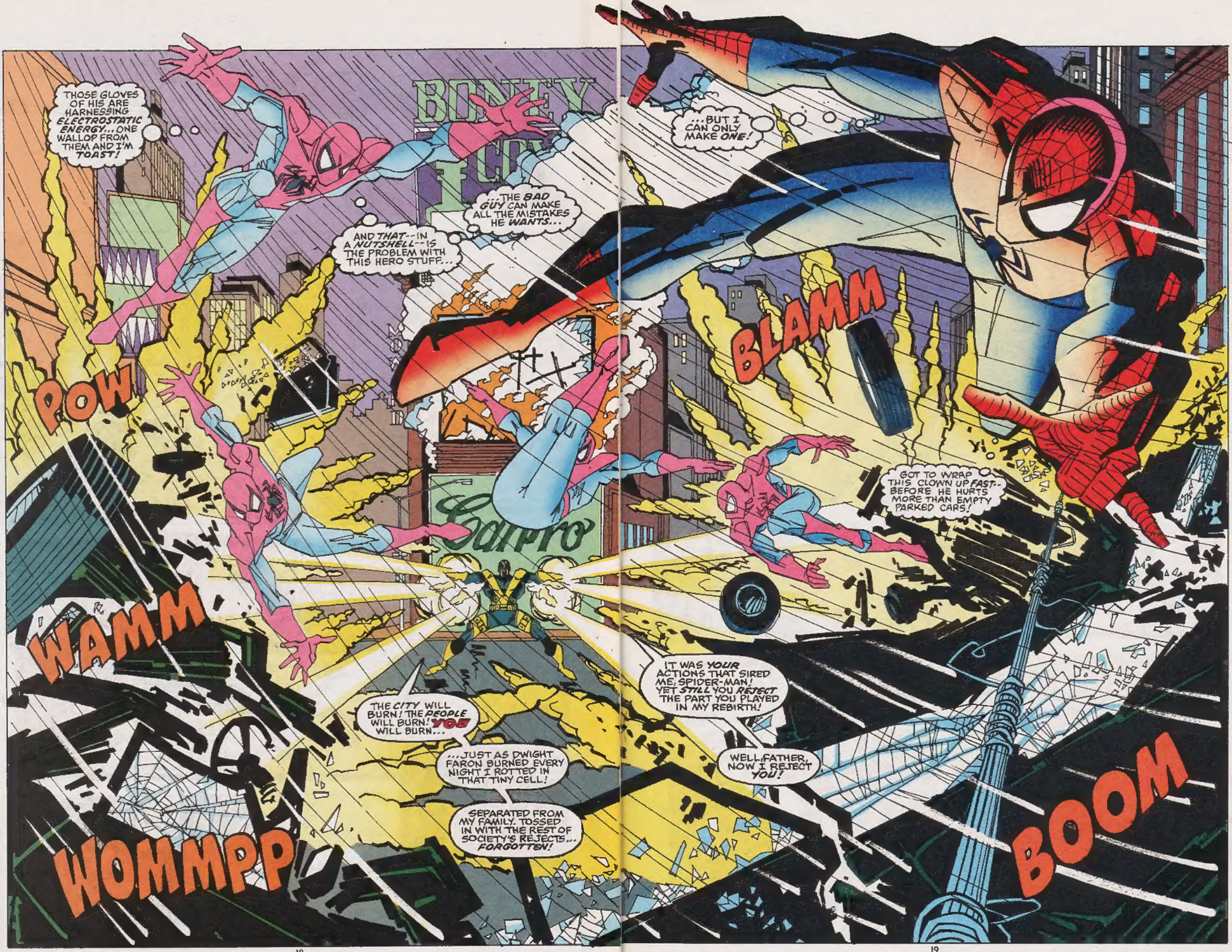
HYPE BOX

Get set for the debut of **The Mace**, a major new player in the Marvel Mythos, in VENOM: THE MACE, a 3-part limited series starring everyone's favorite psycho-symbiote! You're not going to question whether Venny is a hero or villain after he goes at it with The Mace! And watch for The Mace's solo spotlight in a 4-part serial in MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS after his VENOM run concludes! Created by **Carl Potts** and **Barry Crain**, The Mace is one of a number of all-new superstars coming your way this year from The House of Heroes!

NOW ON SALE

- **DAREDEVIL ANNUAL #10:** When **Sneakeroot** digs up trouble, **Shang-Chi** lands a hand — er, foot! By Wright/Renkewitz/Avon!
- **HELLSTORM #14:** Would you fight a serial killer named **Zahgurim**? Daimon would! By Ellis/Grossi
- **HOKUM & HEX #3:** Blood will be shed when Trip fights **Bloodshed**! Last issue! By Lovece/Williams/Lanning!
- **MARVELS #4 OF 4:** Spidey, the **Green Goblin**, and the deaths of everybody named Stacey! By Busiek/Ross!
- **NORTHSTAR #2 OF 4:** Does **Arcade** really want to kill Northstar — or is he just playing games? By Furmen/ Carrasco Jr./Akin!
- **PUNISHER 2099 #16:** Jake straps on a cybernetic *arm* — talk about being armed and dangerous! By Mills & Skinner/Morgan!
- **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #221:** The savage claws of Conan the *Werewolf*! By Thomas/Brown & Docherty/Garcia!
- **SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #212:** The **Master of Vengeance** wants ... guess what ... vengeance! By Lackey/Buscema!
- **WILLIAM SHATNER'S TEK-WORLD #21:** Jake won't tek "no" for an answer! Now on TV! By Skolnick/Sullivan!
- **VENOM: THE MACE #1:** Shake hands with the techno-ninja, **Mace**! By Potts/Sharp!
- **X-FORCE #34:** **Rictor** unearths secrets about his *father* that set off a shock wave! By Nicieza/Daniel/ Holderedge!

GUEST STARS IN NORTHSTAR #2 ... WHAT IS THE TOWER OF POWER?! FIND OUT AT A COMIC BOOK SHOP NEAR YOU


THOSE GLOVES OF HIS ARE HARNESSING ELECTROSTATIC ENERGY... ONE WALLOP FROM THEM AND I'M TOAST!
BONEY
AND THAT--IN A NUTSHELL--IS THE PROBLEM WITH THIS HERO STUFF...
...THE BAD GUY CAN MAKE ALL THE MISTAKES HE WANTS...
POW
Sarro
WAMM
WOMMPP
THE CITY WILL BURN! THE PEOPLE WILL BURN! YOU WILL BURN...
...JUST AS DWIGHT FARON BURNED EVERY NIGHT I ROTTED IN THAT TINY CELL!
SEPARATED FROM MY FAMILY, TOSSED IN WITH THE REST OF SOCIETY'S REJECTS... FORGOTTEN!
...BUT I CAN ONLY MAKE ONE!
BLAMM
GOT TO WRAP THIS CLOWN UP FAST-- BEFORE HE HURTS MORE THAN EMPTY PARKED CARS!
IT WAS YOUR ACTIONS THAT SIRED ME, SPIDER-MAN! YET STILL YOU REJECT THE PART YOU PLAYED IN MY REBIRTH!
WELL, FATHER, NOW I REJECT YOU!
BOOM